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## **Mt Hood legislation contains key river protections**

**Statement by David Moryc of American Rivers**

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PORTLAND -- American Rivers today praised the Mt. Hood river and forest protection legislation introduced by Oregon Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Greg Walden as a great step in protecting the mountain's clean water, fish and wildlife and world-class recreation opportunities.

The legislation includes Wild and Scenic River protections for stretches of the South Fork Clackamas (4.1 miles), Middle Fork Hood (3.7 miles), South Fork Roaring (4.6 miles), Zig Zag River (2.9 miles) and Eagle Creek (8.3 miles).

American Rivers urged congress to support protection for the 11 rivers in Mount Hood National Forest that the U.S. Forest Service has officially found suitable for Wild and Scenic protection, and Fifteen Mile Creek, home to the eastern most population of wild winter Steelhead in the Columbia River Basin.

A Wild and Scenic river designation forever protects the free-flowing condition and outstanding values of our country's most precious rivers. To qualify, a river must be free-flowing and must be deemed to have one or more "outstandingly remarkable" scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values. Oregon has protected more rivers as Wild and Scenic (49 river segments) than any other state in the country.

### **David Moryc of American Rivers made the following statement:**

"We applaud representatives Blumenauer and Walden for carefully crafting this bi-partisan legislation that continues our legacy of protecting Oregon's last, best free-flowing rivers.

"Oregonians know that healthy rivers are priceless community assets. Anglers, boaters, and people who simply value clean water overwhelmingly support protecting Mount Hood's wild rivers.

"Senators Wyden and Smith have a great opportunity to finish the job by including protections for the Collawash River and Fifteen Mile Creek, both spectacular streams that provide excellent recreation and native steelhead habitat.

"While we celebrate the protection of new rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, we remain vigilant and committed to protecting the integrity of the Act itself. Any effort to weaken the Act would diminish the wild river legacy we leave for future generations."

**To learn more about Wild and Scenic rivers, visit [www.AmericanRivers.org/wildrivers](http://www.AmericanRivers.org/wildrivers)**